

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 - 20 by deletion of the same and substituting respective "clean" replacement claims according to the following. A marked up version of each amended claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii) appears on the pages immediately after the respective amended claims.

first ip

a2

1. (Amended). A method of automatically manufacturing a computer comprising:
 - receiving an order from a customer;
 - assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - loading onto the computer a software package specified by the order, including:
 - providing an Internet-accessible page for the customer to specify any desired software modifications;
 - recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.
2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against order details.
3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.

B1 cont'd

a2

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.
5. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising logging the modifications as they are made.
6. (Amended) Apparatus for automatically manufacturing a computer, comprising:
 - an order unit for receiving an order from a customer;
 - an assembly unit for assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order; and
 - for loading onto the computer, a software package specified by the order including:
 - an Internet-accessible page onto which the customer can specify any desired software modifications;
 - a modification unit for recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
 - for each modification in the auto-configuration file, a control unit for determining configuration data corresponding to the respective modification and entering the configuration data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.
7. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against order details.
8. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for verifying the modifications against current capabilities of the manufacturer.

Amended

9. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.

10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for logging the modifications as they are made.

11. (Amended) An automated computer manufacturing method comprising:
receiving an order from a customer;
downloading the order to a manufacturing unit;
including an auto-configuration indicator in the order for a special configuration requirement;
generating a flag to look for the special configuration requirement;
making an inquiry to a manufacturing database for the special configuration requirement; and
if located, applying the special configuration requirement to the order.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising generating an order reference number.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising accepting the order.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising processing the special configuration requirement in parallel with a standard configuration requirement.

*b1
b2*

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising logging the special configuration requirement into a manufacturing log.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising shipping the order to the customer.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
assembling together a selection of hardware components specified by the order;
loading into the computer a software package specified by the order, including the steps of:
b1
providing an internet-accessible page for the customer to specify any desired software modifications;
recording the modifications as an auto-configuration file; and
for each modification in the auto-configuration file, determining any configuration data requirement corresponding to the respective modification and entering configuration requirement data into the computer as the software package is being loaded.

a2

*b1
b2*

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against the order.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising verifying each modification against current manufacturing capabilities.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising logging each of the modifications.